

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (canceled)

2. (canceled)

3. (canceled)

4. (canceled)

5. (currently amended) A compressor, comprising:

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a compression chamber including a cylinder and a piston for compressing working fluid therebetween;

an end plate for blocking an opening of the cylinder, the end plate including a discharge port provided therethrough, through which the working fluid flows out from the compression chamber;

Handwritten notes: *Excluded from prior art*  
a valve seat portion provided around the discharge port and having a tapered surface, so that a cross-sectional area of the discharge port increases in a direction away from the compression chamber;

a valve having a projection portion having a tapered surface, at least a portion of which, in a closed position is in contact with the tapered surface of the valve seat portion wherein the valve has a flat surface portion provided at an end portion of the valve on the side of the compression chamber;

a bore provided in the end plate, the bore being connected to the valve seat portion; and

a retainer inserted into the bore for holding the valve opposing to the valve seat portion.

6. (previously presented) A compressor as defined in claim 5, wherein the retainer through which the working fluid is discharged includes an opening.

7. (previously presented) A compressor as defined in claim 5 [4], wherein the discharge port has a cylindrical portion provided between the compression chamber and the discharge port with said valve seat portion.

8. (previously presented) A compressor as defined in claim 5, further comprising a passage provided between the retainer and an inner side surface of the bore for conducting the working fluid therethrough.

9. (currently amended) A compressor, as defined in any one of the claims 2, 3 and 5 to 8, further comprising:

a biasing means for supporting the valve, so that the valve is biased towards the closed position in contact with the tapered surface of said valve seat portion but can be forced out of contact with the tapered surface of the valve seat portion by pressure within the compression chamber.

10. (previously presented) A compressor, as defined in claim 9, wherein biasing means is a coiled spring engaged with the valve, the coiled spring being formed nearly into a conical shape.

11. (previously presented) A compressor, as defined in claim 9, wherein the biasing means is a leaf spring formed with slits for biasing the valve with a central portion thereof.

12. (canceled)

13. (canceled)

14. (canceled)

15. (previously presented) A compressor as defined in claim 5, wherein the valve seat portion and the bore are coaxial.

16. (previously presented) A compressor as defined in claim 5, wherein the tapered surface of the projection portion of said valve has a conical portion at an end closest to said compression chamber and a spherical portion adjacent the conical portion, wherein, in a closed position, a portion of the spherical portion contacts a portion of the tapered surface of said valve seat portion to form <sup>a</sup>line contact between said valve and said valve seat portion.

17. (previously presented) A compressor as defined in claim 16, wherein the tapered surface of the valve seat portion has a conical shape.